



Frequently Asked Questions

Wish Information

Who can receive a wish?

There are three primary criteria: 1) the child must be under the age of 21; 2) the child must be diagnosed with a life-threatening condition; and 3) the child may not have received a wish previously from any other wish granting organization. Additionally, for the Chicago Chapter to grant the wish, the applicant must live in the greater Chicago-land area or receive their medical treatment at a local area hospital.

Does the child's condition need to be considered terminally ill to receive a wish?

A Special Wish Foundation focuses on hope for a full recovery. A physician needs only to sign a form indicating that the child is diagnosed with a *life-threatening medical condition*.

When should I apply for a wish?

We strongly encourage the child be referred to A Special Wish to receive a wish soon after their diagnosis if possible to bring excitement and anticipation of having a wish fulfilled. We do not have restrictions as to the state of the child's condition to be scheduled for a wish, only that the child is diagnosed with a life-threatening condition.

What are the most requested wishes?

Special Wishes can only be limited by the imagination of the wish child. Most special wishes are included in the following categories:

Special Trips:

Special Trips include theme parks, natural wonders, beach vacations, city destinations or special experiences.

Special People:

Many children have a special person they would like to meet. These people might be their favorite entertainer, politician or sports figure.

Special Events:

Special events that a child might wish to attend as their wish include sporting events, concerts, awards shows or television/movie tapings.

Special Gifts:

Often a child requests a particular item. Special gifts can include a shopping spree, a bedroom make-over, a playground set, a computer, television, or video game system.

Are there any restrictions on a wish?

We are unable to grant wishes such as motorized vehicles, in-ground pools or hot tubs, or international travel. We also do not grant wishes such as medical equipment, home improvements, or cash. Additionally, we cannot pay for medical expenses or funeral arrangements.

Who is allowed to participate in a wish?

Every attempt is made to include the wish child's immediate family residing at home with them under the age of 21. If the wish child is an only child, they are permitted to have a companion also participate in the wish. We also allow a health professional to attend if professional medical assistance is deemed necessary by the child's doctor.

Does the family have to pay for any part of the wish?

All expenses including travel, accommodations, food and spending money are paid by the foundation through donations, fundraising efforts, and in-kind contributions.

Get Involved

How can I volunteer?

Because A Special Wish Foundation is entirely volunteer run and organized, we are always looking for new volunteers. Information on our monthly meetings and volunteer opportunities can be found on our website, www.aswchicago.org/volunteer.html.

How can I make a donation?

While monetary donations are always appreciated, we are often looking for new business and community partners to bring the wishes we grant to life. If you would like to make a donation of any kind, please visit www.aswchicago.org/help.html.

General Information

What are A Special Wish Foundation's sources of funding?

A Special Wish Foundation is funded strictly through donations. All wishes are granted through the generous support of corporations and individuals who wish to help grant a wish of a local child.

How much does a wish cost?

The average cost to grant a wish varies based on the type of the wish. However, the average cost is approximately \$4,000. The Chicago

Chapter is able to spend significantly less, on average, per wish due to the generosity of many business and community partners.

Are contributions tax deductible?

A Special Wish Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all monetary donations and in-kind contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by the IRS. We encourage you to consult with your tax specialist for more details.

How many wishes does A Special Wish Foundation grant each year?

Historically, we have granted between 8-12 wishes each year. We are happy to say that we have never turned down a wish due to lack of funds or volunteers! Our goal is to bring the number of wishes granted per year to between 15 and 25.